



# Donner Memorial State Park

## *General Plan*

Newsletter #2 – August 2002

### **PUBLIC REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN/DRAFT EIR**

California State Parks has prepared a Preliminary General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report for Donner Memorial State Park that addresses significant park planning issues as well as our desire for a new museum/visitor center.

Copies of the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR are currently available for public viewing at the following locations:

#### **Donner Memorial State Park**

12593 Donner Pass Road  
Truckee, CA 96161  
(530) 582-7892

#### **California State Parks – Sierra District**

7630 West Lake Blvd.  
Tahoma, CA 96142  
(530) 525-7232

#### **California State Parks - Northern Service Ctr.**

One Capitol Mall, Suite 410  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-8929

#### **Madelyn Helling Main Library**

980 Helling Way  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
(530) 265-7050

#### **Truckee Branch Library**

10031 Levone Ave.  
Truckee, CA 96161  
(530) 582-7846

#### **Auburn-Placer County Main Library**

350 Nevada Street  
Auburn, CA  
(530) 886-4500



View of Donner Lake  
from Donner Pass

#### **Tahoe City-Placer County Branch Library**

740 N. Lake Blvd.  
Tahoe City, CA  
(530) 583-3382

#### **Kings Beach-Placer County Branch Library**

301 Secline Drive  
Kings Beach, CA  
(530) 546-2021

**Please send written comments no later than  
September 23, 2002, to:**

California State Parks  
Northern Service Center  
ATTN: Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager  
One Capitol Mall, Suite 500  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## GENERAL PLAN PROCESS

General Planning for the Department of Parks and Recreation consists of a series of steps that include information gathering, analysis, and proposals with opportunities for public input.

### Where we are in the process:

- Step 1:** Data gathering.
- Step 2:** Issues identification and analysis.
- Step 3:** Establish plan goals and develop alternatives.
- Step 4:** Planning Workshop, to present planning goals and alternatives, and receive public comments.
- Step 5:** Incorporate public comments into Preliminary General Plan/ Draft EIR.
- Step 6:** **Public and Agency review of Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR (45-day review period).**
- Step 7:** State Parks and Recreation Commission Hearing.

### Public Comments on Planning Proposals for the Park

The Department's Donner Memorial State Park General Plan Team met with the public at a Planning Workshop to gather comments on our planning proposals on May 30, 2002, from 4 PM – 8 PM at the Emigrant Trail Museum at the park. Planning team staff provided an overview of the park and planning process. The public had an opportunity to review photos, maps, and written materials to learn about the proposals, goals, and guidelines for natural, cultural, interpretation, and recreation resources in the park. State Park planners and staff, along with representatives from A. Teichert and Son, Inc. were available to answer questions and address public issues and concerns. Some of the comments and questions included interest for

further public input and review opportunities, future planning processes, public access, circulation, and the integration of a new museum/visitor center with the surrounding land uses. The planning team staff evaluated the comments that were received and incorporated suggestions into the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report.

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following is a summary of comments received from the public both during and after the Planning Workshop, and our responses to these comments:

### Circulation

- **(Q) Will there be traffic conflicts along Donner Pass Road between Tahoe-Donner beach users (the park's adjacent neighbor at the northwest side of the park) and potential museum/visitor center users at the in-park preferred alternative?**
- (A) The intent of the planning proposals is to avoid conflicts on Donner Pass Road between beach users and park visitors. Entrance road design and construction will comply with all Nevada County and Caltrans requirements based on an evaluation of traffic conditions in proposing any changes to the roadways and traffic flow in this area.

### Natural Resources

- **(Q) Will native plant species be used for landscaping at a new museum site?**
- (A) The Preliminary General Plan contains goals and guidelines for establishing native ecosystems at the park; these include recommendations for using native plants in development of sites for new facilities.
- **(Q) Will there be enhancement or restoration work on Cold Creek through the Teichert property?**
- (A) The Preliminary General Plan includes goals and guidelines for the enhancement and restoration of all watersheds and for water quality at the park. If the lower reaches of Cold

Creek become State Park property, these goals and guidelines will apply to those properties as well as to existing park property.

- **(Q) Will the Department consider removing the dredge spoils within its property along Donner Creek?**
- (A) The Preliminary General Plan does not include this level of detail. Future natural resource management planning for the park will address many issues, which may include dredge spoils along Donner Creek.



View of Schallenberger Ridge  
from China Cove Road

#### **New Museum on Teichert Property**

- **(Q) How will the proposed Teichert development affect any parks museum/visitor center development on the Teichert property? Will there be adequate buffer lands/screening between Teichert development and new and existing park facilities?**
- (A) The potential donation of property from A. Teichert and Son, Inc. for a museum/visitor center should include adequate space around the building site to buffer impacts from other development in the area. The Department is coordinating closely with Teichert in these early planning stages to

provide input into the land use plan for desired buffers, screening, and siting of proposed facilities, including the museum/visitor center.

#### **Coldstream Canyon**

- **(Q) Will the Department use mechanical thinning as well as prescribed fire for fire management in Coldstream Canyon?**
- (A) The Department will consider the use of mechanical thinning, along with other resource management programs and activities, to manage fire hazards in Coldstream Canyon and in other areas of the park, although this level of decision is not determined in the Preliminary General Plan.
- **(Q) Will fire present a hazard for private property adjacent to Department lands?**
- (A) The Department has current policies and programs in place for fire management, hazardous tree removal, and mechanical thinning of vegetation in the park. There would not be any additional fire hazards resulting from proposals in the General Plan.
- **(Q) How will the Department regulate off-highway vehicles and minimize conflicts between snowmobilers and skiers in Coldstream Canyon?**
- (A) The Sierra District is currently conducting a planning process to produce a Roads and Trails Management Plan for the park. This effort will make recommendations for management of various recreational activities in the park, including activities in Coldstream Canyon and the new land acquisitions for the park.
- **(Q) How can private property owners adjacent to park property be involved in future planning processes for the park?**
- (A) Individuals may contact the Sierra District at (530) 525-9523 for information regarding future planning efforts and opportunities for public input for Donner Memorial State Park.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Our Department welcomes any written comments that you may have on the Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR.

After the public and agency review period, the Department will respond to comments and present the Preliminary General Plan to the State Park and Recreation Commission at its public hearing, anticipated in spring 2003. Future public notices, indicating the date, place, and time of this hearing, will be sent to those on our mailing list and will appear in the local newspaper.

You may also reference the Department's web site (at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)) for additional information about the park and other park planning efforts in progress.



Reclaimed Pond  
on the Teichert Property



### For More Information or to Offer Suggestions:

#### **Contacts:**

Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager  
General Planning Team  
(916) 445-8909

John Knott, District Superintendent  
Sierra District  
(530) 525-9523

#### **Written comments may be submitted to:**

Gudrun Baxter, Project Manager  
Donner Memorial State Park  
General Plan Project  
Northern Service Center  
One Capitol Mall, Suite 500  
Sacramento, CA 95814